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# Forest Service NEWS



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## PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION'S TIMBER SALE PROGRAM PROFITABLE IN 1992

PORTLAND, March 8--The Pacific Northwest Region, USDA-Forest Service, today reported revenues from timber sales on national forests in Oregon and Washington exceeded costs by \$255 million in fiscal year 1992.

The revenues were generated from the harvest of 2.14 billion board feet (BBF) of timber, down from 3.17 BBF the previous year. (A board foot is a unit of measure equal to a piece of lumber 1 foot square by 1 inch thick. An average home has from 10,000 to 12,000 board feet of lumber.) The figures were released in the 1992 Timber Sale Program Annual Report, compiled through the Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS).

In addition to contributing to society's need for wood products and as a tool for improving the environment for wildlife and other resources, timber sales benefited local economies through the return of over \$170 million for use by local school systems and highway departments.

Agency officials estimate the 1992 timber harvest's contribution to the economic base of the communities surrounding the 19 national forests in Oregon and Washington at over 29,000 jobs and \$1.795 billion in income.

During fiscal year 1992, 684 million board feet (MBF) was offered for sale. This represents a significant reduction when compared with the new projected regional sell level of 2.3 BBF per year. The low sell is due primarily to court injunctions prohibiting the sale of timber in spotted owl habitat.



